Quebecois Nationalism and Sovereignty Movement

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The 1980 Québec referendum was the first referendum to ask Quebeckers within Canada if creating a politically independent nation that was still economically tied to Canada was a good idea. The referendum was called by Quebec’s Parti Québécois (PQ) government, which strongly favored separation from Canada. In this referendum, the majority voted to remain a part of Canada. The outcome of these votes expressed a sense of nationalism to Canada because it portrays how the majority of Quebeckers love and enjoy living in Canada and do not want to separate from it. At the time of the referenda, sovereignist was the same as separatist. This indicates that those who voted for a sovereign Québec also wanted to completely separate from Canada. The referendum failed when premiers from a number of Canadian provinces publicly stated that they would not negotiate an economic association with an independent Québec. It is evident that these premiers refused because negotiating an economic association with Québec would not be beneficial to Canada. It is clear that they believe an independent Québec should be independent politically and economically. The 1995 Quebec referendum was the second referendum to ask voters in the Canadian province of Québec if creating a politically independent nation that was still economically tied to Canada was again, a good idea. The question on this referendum ballot reads as follows, “Do you agree that Québec should become sovereign, after having made a formal offer to Canada for a new Economic and Political Partnership, within the scope of the Bill respecting the future of Québec and of the agreement signed on June 12, 1995?” The referendums, 1980 and 1995, differed from one another, in terms of the question asked on the ballot. The 1980 ballot suggested negotiating “sovereignty association” within
Canada, while the 1995 ballot suggested “sovereignty”, with the optional partnership offer for the rest of Canada. Again, the referendum failed, as 50.56% voted “No”, while 49.44% voted “Yes” for separation. Québec is a Canadian nation, and Quebeckers are Canadian as well. Becoming a politically independent nation with an economic association with Canada is not very effective. A nation within Canada should remain in Canada and not become independent, so Canada can remain a strong unified nation. Also, if one nation were to seek independence, the nation should seek to be politically, economically, and socially independent, not politically independent but economically tied to another nation. This is the only effective resolution for this issue, that Québec remain a province of Canada, and not separate from it.
References
